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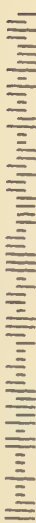
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## FROM THE APIC PRESIDENT

Dear fellow APIC members:

As long as there have been political institutions in the United States, and for that matter, when we were the Colonies, tobacco has played a major part, especially in the South. This issue "The Cigar Tradition" looks at the political influence that tobacco played in the political process and how marketing utilized political themes to sell their products.

When the first English settlers came to Jamestown, Virginia in 1607, they quickly learned they could make a lot of money selling a mild variety of tobacco being grown by the Native Americans for an eager market in England. Without the profitability of tobacco, the Virginia colony would have failed. As there were no banks in the southern colonies, tobacco was used to barter for the things the farmers needed – on credit - to pay their debts when their crops were harvested and sold. The wages of soldiers, clergymen's salaries, and government officials were paid in tobacco. It was a well known fact indentured servants and the occasional wife could also be purchased with tobacco.

As the need for a more permanent work force was needed for this ever increasing "cash crop," the land owners looked for a cheaper way to employ a work force. Due to this, and the need to for a work force to plant and collect cotton, slavery became entrenched in colonial life. Most of the Founding Fathers from the South and especially in Virginia had slaves, including George Washington and Thomas Jefferson. These same Founding Fathers also had to grapple with the need for a growing demand for citizenship when our nation was formed.

In 1790, in most of the newly formed states only landowners could vote – this was especially true in the South. However, by 1821, states such as New York dropped the property requirement. It is ironic that although slaves became one of the primary reasons for the success of tobacco, and thus economic success for the land owners as voters and politicians– African Americans were denied citizenship until after the Civil War. On another note, those who introduced tobacco to the eager colonists – Native Americans – were also denied citizenship and the right to vote until the Snyder Act, passed in 1924.

As controversial as tobacco is in today's America, this issue shows that it has played an important part in our political history, as well as the culture of our country.



Christopher B. Hearn  
President



## EDITOR'S MESSAGE

The Willard Hotel located right across from the White House since 1816 is famous for its role in politics. When President Ulysses S. Grant would finish a day's work, he would go over to the Willard Hotel to relax and smoke a cigar in the hotel lobby. People would loiter in the lobby hoping for a few minutes with the President. Grant, preferring to smoke in peace, called the people waiting in the hotel "lobbyists", a term that sadly remains with us today.



The Round Robin Bar at the Willard was where U.S. Vice President Thomas Marshall is said to have made his famous comment that "what this country needs is a good five-cent cigar."

Back during my Vietnam-era Army service, I was usually seen with a Wolf Brothers rum-soaked "Crook", a cheap, twisted, sinister-looking cigar straight out of a melodrama villain's costume. I gave them up long ago but cigars were once a key part politics in America.

"Cigars for the boys" were an expected part of a political campaign. When the ward heeler came by passing out cigars, you knew an election was coming.

We originally planned a "smoke and mirrors" theme for this issue but we found far too many smoking-related items to cover all that. We limited this issue to smoking items from 1904 and before. We'll be back next year with the post-1904 smoking items and mirrors too.

Michael Kelly  
Editor

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**NEXT ISSUE--** Long before Earl Warren was one of the most controversial chief justices of the Supreme Court, he was one of the most popular politicians in the country. We'll look at the political career and presidential campaigns of California's Earl Warren.

**FRONT COVER--** Colorful Canadian cigar box circa 1900.

**SUBMISSIONS--** This is your publication. Please feel free to share your ideas, suggestions, illustrations and stories. The Keynoter is delighted to share pictures of interesting political Americana with its readers. When submitting an illustration, send it as an .eps, .jpg or .pdf file to [mkelly@mcc.edu](mailto:mkelly@mcc.edu). Illustrations should be in color and submitted in digital format with at least 300 dpi resolution (preferably higher). Files must be created at 100% of actual size or larger (smaller risks losing clarity). Digital electronic images should be saved to a minimum of 300 dpi as TIF, GIF, JPEG or EPS files, preferably in Adobe Photoshop.

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**ILLUSTRATIONS--** The editor wishes to thank the following for providing illustrations for this issue: Al Anderson, Larry Brokofsky, Germaine Broussard, David Castaldi, Bruce Demay, Mark Evans, Robert Fratkin, Tom French, David and Janice Frent, Harvey Goldberg, Howard Hazeltorn, Chris Hearn, Heritage Auctions, Brian Krapf, Rex Stark.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

*I have just read the Spring 2011 Keynoter article on Truman and the KKK. What a great piece of historical research! I have read my fair share of Truman biographies and histories and this was an aspect of Truman that I hadn't been aware of. This kind of article takes the Keynoter in a strong new direction. It's not just a publication for "button collectors," but it also explores new historical research. This is a fascinating article and one The Keynoter should be proud of.*

Paul Rozycki (APIC #11384)

*Just received the Spring 2011 issue of The Keynoter. The article on Bernie Fisher is excellent. I really appreciate that you took the time to research him and add him to the list of politicians that was awarded the Medal Of Honor. Bernie is still alive and lives in Kuna, Idaho. Years ago his house burned down and all of his Military awards were destroyed in the fire. He was able to replace all except the ones he was awarded by the South Vietnamese Government. Thank you for your time and consideration*

Max Fuqua (APIC #5641)

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# Tobacco and Politics: The Cigar Tradition

By Tony Hyman

Anyone who watches television can see that modern election campaigns have degenerated into a series of evasive statements, vague promises, and mudslinging commercials. It's difficult for today's voters to comprehend that nineteenth-century elections were events filled with passion and intellectual debate, with the entire citizenry adequately informed and taking sides in public forums — not sanitized town meetings with pre-approved questions asked of carefully groomed dates. A century ago, elections were grand public affairs — band concerts, parades, handbills, ers, banners, saloon arguments, a ham from the ward heeler, and cigars. Always cigars. From smoke-filled rooms of Tammany Hall to the muddy, unpaved streets of rural America, cigars were part of every political confrontation.

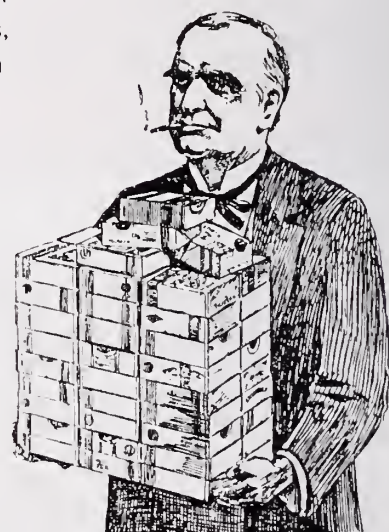
The first cigar smoking President appears to have been Zachary Taylor, elected in 1848 before cigars had totally taken hold of American society. Taylor had become famous as a result of his exploits in the war with Mexico, a cigar-smoking country, home to a giant government run cigar factory with nearly 3,000 workers handrolling tobacco leaves into cigars. It's not recorded, but quite likely, that Mexico is where Taylor picked up the habit. Though not yet ubiquitous, cigars were surprisingly available, and not only in the major metropolitan centers. During the pre-Lincoln presidencies of Fillmore, Pierce, and Buchanan, thousands of cigar factories were established in the U.S., mirroring and exceeding

the boom taking place in Cuba. By 1860, there were already 350 cigar factories in far-Western California, twice that in Illinois and twice that in New York City. And the association between politics and cigars, though rudimentary, had begun.

So little is known about the cigar industry of Cuba and the U.S. before 1860

that it makes it difficult to report too much with certainty. During the 1830's, 40's, and 50's the Cubans experimented widely with shapes and sizes of labels to decorate the many thousands of boxes of cigars they were shipping worldwide. Many, like the Washington label designed for the top of a box (see left), were early short-lived bad ideas. Others, like the three orators (next page), were suitably designed for the end of a box of 100, but the placement of text above and below the image was quickly abandoned.

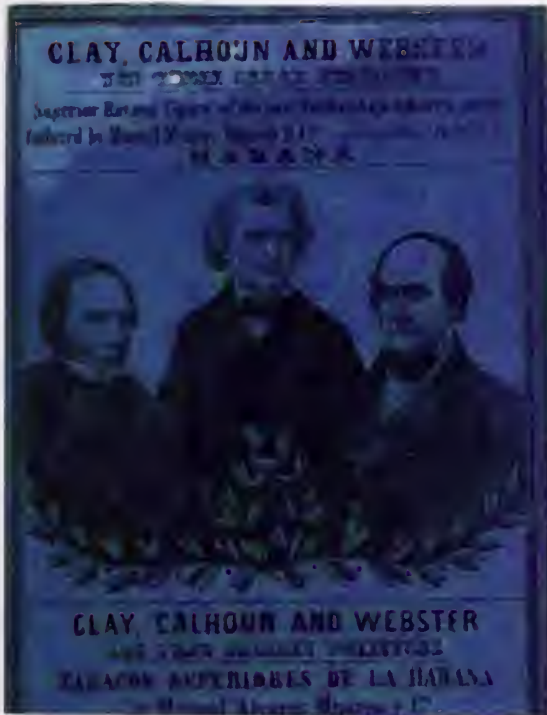
It's logical to assume the revered former President, George Washington, was the first US President to be honored on a cigar box. If nothing else, he's pictured on one of the earliest cigar boxes yet discovered, this Cuban box that contained 100 cigars, dating from around 1848. The earliest living American politician known to have appeared on a cigar label was Henry Clay, who visited Cuba in 1850 and was honored with a long-lived cigar brand, possibly before he left the island.



**McKinley reportedly smoked 18 cigars a day. A DC tobacconist bragged McKinley had consumed 100,000 of his brand of cigars.**







sincerity of the intended support, in contrast to the Your Choice style boxes, which never identify the cigar maker.

Heavy smoking, wildly popular Civil War hero Ulysses S. Grant helped bring cigars into the mainstream. Grant became the only presidential candidate whose campaign song touted his love of cigars when "A-Smoking His Cigar" was introduced:

"The people know just what they want.  
Less talk and no more war.  
For President, Ulysses  
Grant a-smoking his cigar."

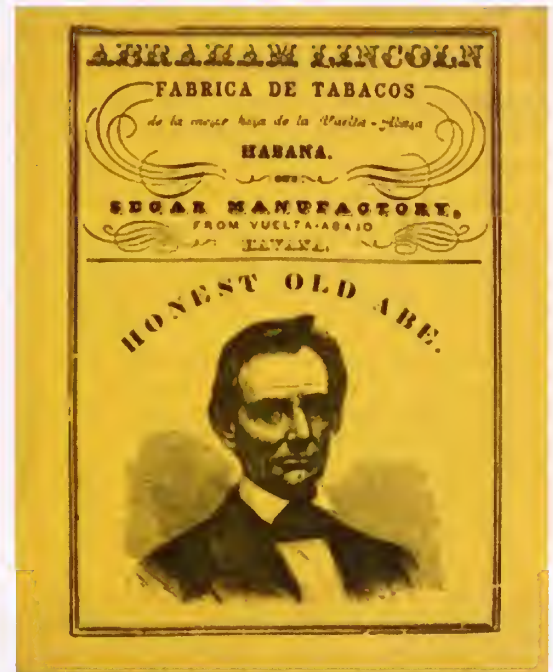


*This General Grant cigar brand was created by a maker in Birmingham, NY, at least two years before Grant ran for the Presidency.*

Plagiarizing ideas was common among Cubans, one of whom reasoned that if one famous American's name and picture could sell cigars, "tres grandes politicos" might sell even more. The label featuring three active politicians honors their importance but probably had no campaign connection.

By the 1860's the most common form of cigar label was designed for the end of a box, vertical, with text above a square image below. Lithographic design and the absence of a beard tends to place this image (see below) before Lincoln became President. In contrast to most Cuban labels, a maker and address are not given, but its discovery in a large European collection of Cuban cigar labels compiled 1838-1868 leads credence to that attribution. Was it originally ordered by a Lincoln supporter to help raise recognition or drum up votes? We'll never know.

After the Civil War, it became the practice to create a brand of cigars to capitalize on a politician's popularity or as a genuine personal statement of support. Boxes included a portrait and the candidate's name but seldom party identification. The cigar maker's name is usually prominent, more often than not emblazoned across the side or back of the box liner. Willingness to be associated with the candidate suggests



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On this box, the fashionable pretty cigar-smoking woman is rejecting “her” party and accepting gift cigars from the Democrats, while the hang-dog women’s party is attracting a different clientele. Ultimately, her choice didn’t matter, as both parties lost to the popular Grant. This is the earliest depiction of cigars being given away by a political campaign in exchange for attention and presumably votes. It is also a very early use of the women’s rights movement to sell a product.



The 1872 election pitted Republican Grant against Democratic newspaperman Horace Greeley, but the real attention-getters were the nominees of the newly formed Equal Rights Party: feminist Victoria Woodhull and abolitionist Frederick Douglass.

Some of the rare, earliest political boxes are issues boxes seeking to attract a smoker’s eye by depicting one of the day’s more newsworthy controversies. In 1872, in the view of the cigar makers, women’s “rights” should include the right to smoke in public, a hotly debated issue since Puritan days.

Even if Victoria Woodhull had been elected, she could not have served because she was under 35 years of age.



This jewel of an issues box depicts the two factions (rural Blacks and urban Irish) trying to push their candidate through a turnstile leading to the White House. Spikes atop the fence prevented either candidate from straddling the issues. Cigar boxes weren’t permitted to be manufactured of tin prior to 1870, making this box the oldest authenticated use of tin to pack cigars. The box is hand-soldered, plain, decorated only with paper liner and inner label.





Before the Battle of Fort Donelson, U.S. Grant was a light smoker. During the battle a reporter spotted him holding an unlit cigar given him by Admiral Foote, and soon ten thousand cigars were sent to him in camp. Although giving away as many as he could, he started the habit of cigar smoking that became one of his trademarks.



*In the heat of battle, when his staff officers were full of anxiety, General Grant calmly smoked his cigar and never lost his composure. His nerves of steel were a wonder to all around him. He could write dispatches while shells burst around him and never flinch.*

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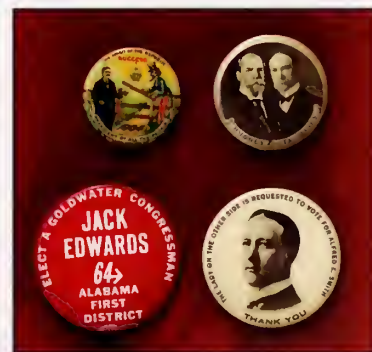
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This rare 1880 label depicts the perceived leading presidential candidates from both parties. From left, Senator Thomas Bayard (D-DE), ex-President Ulysses Grant (R-IL), ex-Governor Thomas Hendricks, (D-IN), Governor Samuel Tilden (D-NY) and General William T. Sherman (R-MO).

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A photograph of Tony Hyman, a man with a white beard and mustache, wearing a dark turtleneck and a light-colored jacket. He is standing in front of a wall covered in numerous cigar boxes and memorabilia. The boxes are arranged in rows, creating a colorful and textured background. The text "Visit the Museum: www.CigarHistory.info" is overlaid on the bottom left of the image.



The 1876 election between Republican Hayes, who strongly urged rights for Negroes, and Tilden, a hot tempered urban reformer who won the popular vote (by 250,000) was decided by Congressional Committee after Southern electoral votes appeared under suspicious circumstances. No surprise, a Congress controlled by Republicans awarded the Presidency to Hayes. In what has come to be called "the compromise of 1877" Hayes rewarded Southern states by withdrawing U.S. troops which had occupied the South since the Civil War, ending Reconstruction.



*The long delay in determining the winner of the 1876 election probably prompted the creation of this generic box label from a small manufacturer in New York City, Our Next President?, as the wait for results extended almost to inauguration day, Reuse of topical label designs was not uncommon during this period, and the markings on this particular box indicate that it was manufactured in 1879-1880.*



A plethora of third party candidates and a violently anti-Masonic movement tarnished the 1880 campaign, the Republican side of which hinged almost entirely on claims of Democratic corruption in big cities. When Garfield was shot, his vice president Chester A. Arthur, a wealthy cigar smoking party enjoyer took over. Garfield and running mate, Chester A. Arthur, are featured inside this patriotically decorated box. The brand name atop the lid of the box, SURE THING, belies the notion this may have been one of a pair, the other featuring the Democratic candidates.

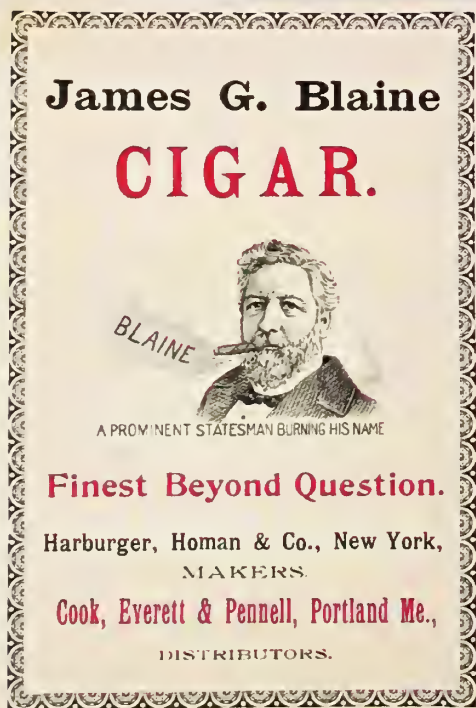


*Pillow sham available as a premium upon redemption of coupons packaged with General Arthur cigars.*





Once printing technology permitted, colorful patriotic themes dominated election boxes. **PEOPLE'S CHOICE** proved to be a prophetic name with Cleveland sweeping the election.



Blaine lost the 1884 election, but the cigars he inspired lasted long after other candidates' cigars were gone. This advertising card dates from the 1880's and advertises the original **JAMES G. BLAINE** cigar.

The 1884 election featured a bitter contest with Cleveland accused of fathering an illegitimate child and Blaine accused of selling his vote. "Ma, Ma, where's my pa? Gone to the White House; Ha, Ha, Ha" and "Rum, Romanism, and Rebellion" are two famous slogans from the campaign. Anti-Catholicism cost Blaine NYC and the election. The 36 electoral votes from NY state decided the election, won by 1,047 votes of 1,167,003 cast. Cleveland became the first Democrat in the White House since 1856.



This trade card depicts Blaine and his VP candidate John Logan, who says "We've got the nomination, but to get elected we must keep the boys supplied with **CAPADURAS**," then one of the nation's biggest sellers. Interesting suggestion by a major maker to use cigars as bribes.



Chester Arthur tin tip tray.





Store countertop advertising piece combining a lamp, cigar cutter and cigar lighter.



Grover Cleveland may not have won the cigar war, but he won the fair damsel. Cleveland has the honor of being the only U.S. President to be married while in office. In 1886, during his first term, the 49 year old chief executive wed Frances Folsom, a young woman less than half his age. Marrying a 19, 21 or 22 year old (depending on which history you read) became a contributing factor, some believe, to Cleveland's loss in the election of 1888. This box celebrating their union was filled with cigars by Powell & Goldstein, an Oneida, NY, company employing 100+ rollers.





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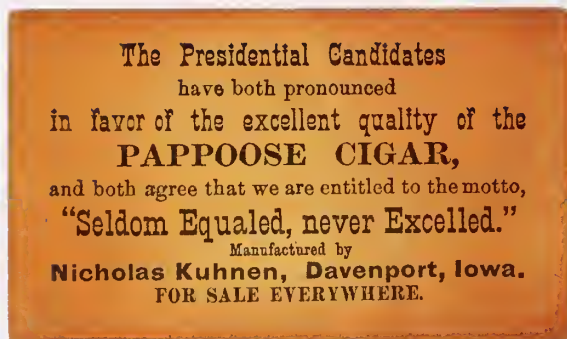


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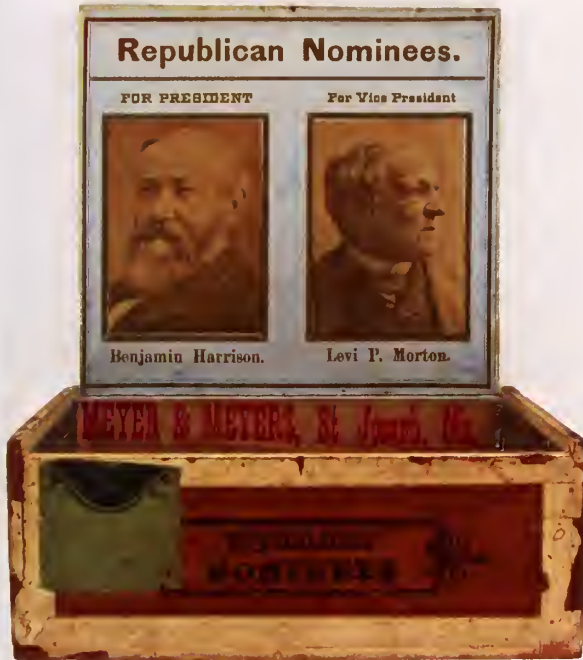


Front and back Harrison card for Pappoose cigars.



In 1888 the Democrats won the popular vote by 90,000 out of 11,000,000 cast, but decidedly lost the electoral college. Cleveland continued the long tradition of Presidential candidates not personally campaigning, by giving only one speech in 1888 leaving all the campaigning to Allen Thurman, his 77 year old VP running mate. Last minute Republican trickery using a fake letter allegedly from British officials urging support of Cleveland swayed the huge Irish vote in New York City, costing the Democrats New York and the election.





One side of a folding cigar box that featured Cleveland and Harrison sides, which when unfolded with box lids closed, formed a checkerboard.



This 1888 gem is a box of 5 cigars to be given away as a Thank You to Republican donors. It is the oldest box of 5 known as that size box wasn't legal until 1910.



In 1892 the same candidates, both with new running mates, went at it again. Incumbent Harrison faced serious opposition for the nomination from James G. Blaine and William McKinley. Populists, Prohibitionists and Socialists all ran presidential candidates. With free trade the key issue, labor backed the Democrats. 74.7% of the country's eligible voters cast ballots, and Cleveland became the 22nd and 24th President of the U.S., the only incumbent to serve non-consecutive terms.



This size give-away box of 12 was legalized in 1891, the year before the election. Printing on wood was considerably cheaper than paper labels.

# Electoral Vote

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	Louisiana	8	Tennessee	12
	Maine	6	Texas	15
	Maryland	8	Vermont	4
	Massachusetts	15	Virginia	12
	Michigan	14	Washington	4
	Minnesota	9	West Virginia	6
	Mississippi	9	Wisconsin	12
	Missouri	17	Wyoming	3
TOTAL		444		

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This pair of “issues” labels (above) was offered as a stock item by NY label printer Johns & Co. in hope of cashing in on the tariff debate that dominated the elections of 1888 and 1892. Johns offered them with or without the names of candidates added at no extra charge. Labels were also offered blank -- with no title at all -- so they could later be easily customized locally. The wording on cigar labels was suggested by printers but selected by cigar factory owners, wholesalers,

distributors and retailers, the majority of whom would have supported free trade because of its impact on Havana tobacco and Cuban cigars. The Democratic label urges “taxation only for necessary expenses of government” and the Republican label seeks “protection to home industries” and “reciprocity with all nations.” Like most loose labels, these images have not been found on a box.



A large “McKinley Stinker” poster and CDV (right and left) criticize the McKinley tariff act of 1891 which sent the price of Cuban cigars and Cuban tobacco skyrocketing, thus driving down the quality of domestic cigars dependent on the latter for blending. The tariff was but one of the reasons the Republicans lost the election of 1892.





The election of 1896 was fought mainly around a single issue: would America remain on the gold standard or would the economy switch to silver, a theory espoused by Bryan and the Populists who argued that backing currency with silver would put more money in circulation, helping poor Southern and Western farmers and pull the country out of the Depression of 1893. To combat McKinley, who outspent him 10 to 1, Bryan became the first Presidential candidate to stump the country giving talks off the back of railroad cars. The Republicans sent paid goons to follow Bryan denouncing him as a radical everywhere he spoke. Huge expenditures and active candidate campaigning lead some to call this the first modern Presidential election.

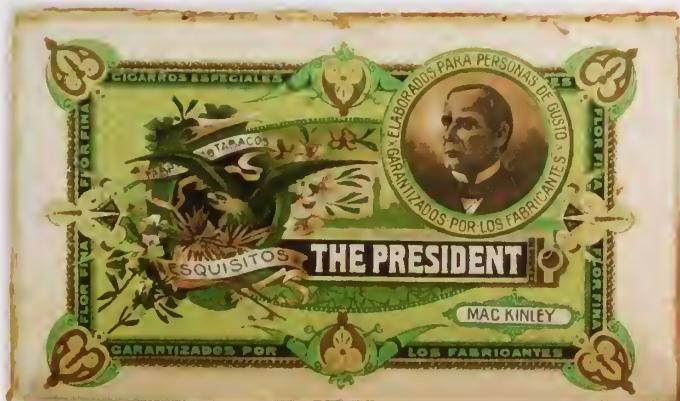


*Match safe*





There are five things wrong with the McKinley box shown below. How many can you find? Answers in next issue.





A bloated Uncle Sam after taking over Cuba, Puerto Rico and The Philippines, all in need of “civilizing” according to the Republican campaign in 1900. The major battle sites of the Spanish American War are written on Uncle Sam’s clothes, Santiago, Manila, Havana and Porto Rico (which was the Americanized spelling in 1898}. It is not certain if this is pro or anti the new possessions acquired from the war—does Uncle Sam look more prosperous and well fed, or is he in need of going on a strict diet?



There was a proliferation of items in 1898 “celebrating” the Spanish American War, from cigar boxes to buttons, from battleship pipes to action-figure ashtrays.

Ashtray depicts Uncle Sam in a tug-of-war with a Spaniard over a cigar labeled “CUBA”.







"You better take advantage of the good cigars. You don't get much else in that job."

— House Speaker Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill advising Vice President Walter Mondale.



Tobacco silk



Allen Thurman and John Sherman



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Recovery from the hard times of the early 90's and the decisive victory in the Spanish-American war helped McKinley score a decisive victory in 1900. While McKinley followed the practice of a century of predecessors and remained on his front porch, Roosevelt and Bryan logged more than 20,000 rail miles each, Teddy basked in the righteousness of the War and called for "Four more years of the full dinner pail." Bryan advocated freeing the newly won territories, while Roosevelt argued "We have to civilize them first." Prosperity carried the day.



Memorial tobacco pouch cover, which was also used on metal change purses, 1901.



Store counter tip tray.



The OUR CANDIDATES label exemplifies the new Ben Day printing technology which allowed cigar labels to be printed with photographs. Cigars by Barlow, Rogers & Simpson, Binghamton, NY.



Black labeled and edged box might be campaign or issued upon the assassination of McKinley.





*Souvenir of President Roosevelt's visit to Los Angeles in 1903*

The election of 1904 is second only to that of 1888 in the number of cigar boxes it generated, despite the fact that T.R. was so popular no one wanted to run against him. Bryan sat out the election. Cleveland refused to come out of retirement. Only publisher William Randolph Hearst wanted the nomination, but the party didn't want him, selecting a relative unknown, the Chief Judge of the New York Court of Appeals, Alton Parker. As vice presidential candidate, the Democrats named 81-year-old millionaire Henry Davis of West Virginia in hopes he'd pick up the tab for a sure-bet losing effort. He didn't. The man whom some in his own party had earlier called "that damned cowboy" won easily, while supporting conservation, national parks, the Panama Canal and the subduing of the trusts.



*Plug tobacco tag*











Another misspelling



Center is remnants of a tobacco product.



Simon's Roosevelt Cigars were made in Canada for the Canadian domestic market and not intended for export to the United States. It is only one example of a strong Canadian interest in American celebrities, frequently reflected on cigar containers. (See also McKinley box on cover)





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# "Did They or Didn't They?"

1. Which US President was initially a light smoker until a reporter spotted him with an unlit cigar on the battlefield causing people to send him upwards of 10,000 cigars & start his trademark habit? Also, what war was this President fighting?
2. Before the American Revolution tobacco was considered legal tender in several colonies that housed large plantations. Which of the original 13 colonies enacted a law stating that all taxes must be paid in tobacco?
3. What famous author wrote a narrative poem in the late 19th-century about having to choose between his love of cigars and his wife? **\*\***(In order to be considered a correct answer, please provide the author's name and the title of the poem.)**\*\***

"Which is the better portion — bondage bought with a ring, Or a harem of dusky beauties, fifty tied in a string?"

George Washington 1789-1797 unknown  
 John Adams 1797-1801 cigar  
 Thomas Jefferson 1801-1809 unknown  
 James Madison 1809-1817 cigar  
 James Monroe 1817-1825 unknown  
 John Quincy Adams 1825-1829 cigar  
 Andrew Jackson 1829-1837 cigar  
 Martin Van Buren 1837-1841 pipe  
 William Henry Harrison 1841 pipe  
 John Tyler 1841-1845 cigar  
 James Polk 1845-1849 none  
 Zachary Taylor 1849-1850 cigar  
 Millard Fillmore 1850-1853 none  
 Franklin Pierce 1853-1857 unknown  
 James Buchanan 1857-1861 unknown  
 Abraham Lincoln 1861-1865 unknown  
 Andrew Johnson 1865-1869 cigar  
 Ulysses S. Grant 1869-1877 cigar  
 Rutherford B. Hayes 1877-1881 unknown  
 Chester A. Arthur 1881-1885 cigar  
 Grover Cleveland 1885-1889 chewing tobacco

Benjamin Harrison 1889-1893 cigar  
 Grover Cleveland 1893-1897 chewing tobacco  
 William McKinley 1897-1901 cigar  
 Theodore Roosevelt 1901-1909 none  
 Woodrow Wilson 1913-1921 none  
 Warren G. Harding 1921-1923 cigar  
 Calvin Coolidge 1923-1929 cigar  
 Herbert Hoover 1929-1933 cigar  
 Franklin D. Roosevelt 1933-1945 cigarette  
 Harry S. Truman 1945-1953 none  
 Dwight Eisenhower 1953-1961 cigarette  
 John F. Kennedy 1961-1963 cigar  
 Lyndon Johnson 1963-1969 cigar  
 Richard Nixon 1969-1974 cigar  
 Gerald Ford 1974-1977 pipe  
 Jimmy Carter 1977-1981 none  
 Ronald Reagan 1981-1989 none  
 George Bush 1989-1993 none  
 Bill Clinton 1993- cigar  
 George W. Bush cigars, chewing tobacco  
 Barack Obama cigarettes

**Thomas Marshall (1854-1925), U.S. Vice-President, once remarked "What this country needs is a good five-cent cigar." Will Rogers (1879-1935), American Humorist retorted "Our country has plenty of good five-cent cigars, but the trouble is they charge fifteen cents for them."**

**Humorist Franklin P. Adams added, "There are plenty of good five-cent cigars in the country. The trouble is they cost a quarter. What this country needs is a good five-cent nickel."**

# Papier-mâché Snuff Boxes

By Michael Kelly

Among the finest visual American political items produced in the 19th century are the papier-mâché snuff boxes

The front piece in the section on the 1836 campaign in the magnificent *Running for President* edited by Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr. features just such a snuff box adorned with Martin VanBuren's portrait. The section on the 1824 campaign features a similar snuff box for Andrew Jackson and former *Keynoter* editor Roger A. Fischer's excellent *Tippecanoe and Trinkets Too* also features a Jackson snuff box but the literature of our field tells us very little about where these beautiful items came from.

Papier-mâché (or paper-mache) is a composite material consisting of paper pieces or pulp, sometimes reinforced with textiles, bound with an adhesive, such as glue, starch, or wallpaper paste.







This material is known to go back at least as far as ancient Egypt. Paper-mache has been used for doll heads starting as early as 1540 and around 1725 in Europe, gilded papier-mâché began to appear as a low-cost alternative to similarly treated plaster or carved wood in architecture.

Paper-mache was the inexpensive plastic of the day since it could easily be molded into desired shapes. The mashed or pulped paper was first molded then baked to drive off the moisture. When it became firm and hard it was finished with an enamel-like coat of paint and was then ready for a wide variety of decorative treatment.

In 17th and 18th century a great interest for papier-mâché items spread all over England and many books and magazines explained how to make this versatile material. George Washington himself intended to use this material for the ceilings of his house in Mount Vernon.







In the early 19th Century snuff boxes were among the leading decorative accessories made of this material and Birmingham, England was the center of their manufacture. The most popular shaped snuff box was circular, about three inches in diameter, with a flanged lid that fitted tightly onto the base. It was light, compact and held a good amount of snuff. It was what manufacturers and retailers of novelties today would call a good seller and the Birmingham makers made the most of their opportunities.

The War of 1812 gave the English manufacturers their chance and by the time the war was over, quantities of paper-mache snuff boxes were produced in Birmingham and decorated with portraits of war heroes to appeal to American trade.







To this end special circular copper plate engravings were made, chiefly in England, though a few came from France. They were copied from larger engraved prints of the War of 1812, then being published in goodly numbers. These small-size round pictures were ideal for gluing either to the lid alone or both lid and bottom of the snuff boxes after the boxes had been painted with the enamel-like finish, usually black. The final process was

painting the entire box with a coat of transparent varnish. Made in quantity for this new market, they sold very well. It is likely that the Andrew Jackson boxes and others were part of this wave of production. Another similar papier-mâché item of the same type are rectangular cigar boxes, which we show with this article in varieties ranging from Henry Clay to Horatio Seymour..

The vogue lasted some fifteen years, from about 1815 to 1830. In 1850, the Litchfield Manufacturing Company opened a factory in Litchfield, Connecticut to produce American paper-mache products. Items continued to appear into the middle of the century.

These snuff boxes form a rare pictorial account of the early American Republic and as such are of special interest to collectors.







\*



\*

\*Copyright by David and Janice Frent



"I said, 'Forgive me, sir,' and plucked the cigar out of his mouth. By the time I got back to my camera, he looked so belligerent he could have devoured me. It was at that instant that I took the photograph.

The silence was deafening."

Yousuf Karsh, recalling the taking of his famous "bulldog" photograph of Winston Churchill



Collection of Howard Hazelcorn





\*



Although any Zachary Taylor item (left) is rare, any item for DeWitt Clinton (right) is especially hard to find.



\*





\*



Winfield Scott



\*



\*

\*Collection of Howard Hazelcorn



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*Pierce*



*Fillmore*



*Taylor*



*Clay*



*McKinley*



*Roosevelt*



Cass



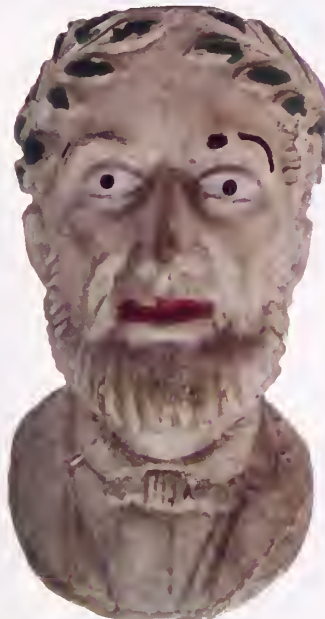
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Collection of Rex Stark

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*With this issue, The Keynoter is initiating a new occasional series, Historical Sights, which will feature relatively unknown interesting historical places to visit that have a relationship to our political heritage. If you have an offbeat location that you think other collectors may be interested in visiting, please contact the Editor.*

## **Arthurdale, West Virginia - The First Government-Sponsored Planned Community**

Prior to FDR's election in 1933, Eleanor Roosevelt had become interested in the work of a Quaker organization which had begun a child feeding program in Pennsylvania and West Virginia at President Hoover's request. After his 1933 inauguration, FDR promoted a bevy of bills to address the problems of the Depression. One of these was Section 208 of Title II of the National Industrial Recovery Act of 1933 (the NRA), which provided \$25 million dollars to purchase subsistence homestead communities to redistribute the "overbalance of population in industrial centers." It was intended to take impoverished urban laborers, farmhands and coal miners and move them to modern rural communities that would allow them to become economically self-sufficient.

The first of these New Deal communities, Arthurdale, WV, was known as "The Reedsville Project" by the government employees who were first sent there in 1933. Other, better known resettlement homestead communities established during the first two Roosevelt administrations, include Beltsville Maryland, Roosevelt New Jersey and Aberdeen Gardens in Hampton VA.\*\*\*

Based upon her earlier experiences in the area, the First Lady became involved with The Reedsville Project, which was later renamed Arthurdale. The project was begun in 1934; land was purchased, residents were selected, homes were constructed, more residents were selected, more homes constructed until there were 165 homes and several community buildings including a school complex, built on approximately 1200 acres in rural Preston County, West Virginia. Today, many of the community buildings still stand and most are part of Arthurdale Heritage, Inc.. Homesteaders were selected through a screening process that put an emphasis on families that were prepared to farm their properties and have skills that would contribute to the community. Of those original 165 homes, 160 are still occupied today. Although not firm in the original plans, Mrs. Roosevelt insisted that all of the Arthurdale homes were built with modern necessities such as insulation and indoor plumbing.



*Homestead home restored to as it was in the 1930s*



Many of the new residents were impoverished displaced miners from the nearby Scott's Run area near Morgantown, WV. The homesteaders themselves were responsible for paying rent, working and farming their allotted acreage of 1 ½ to 4 acres, and some were employed to build new homes and the administration building, forge, gas station, cooperative store, craft shop, center hall, and school buildings. Some found work in the schools, post office, barber shop, and the Mountaineer Craftsmen's Cooperative Association. Others were hired to work in the numerous business ventures which were enticed to the newly built factory facility.

Eleanor Roosevelt visited Arthurdale many times, and took a personal interest in the planning and development of the community. She also attended the high school graduation every year until World War II, and FDR visited Arthurdale in 1938 and spoke at the high school graduation ceremony.

The federal government liquidated its holdings in Arthurdale in 1947; all homes and community buildings were sold to private ownership and the community buildings were allowed to deteriorate. However, in 1984 the community celebrated the 50th Anniversary of its homesteading. This celebration resulted in the establishment of Arthurdale Heritage, Inc., whose mission for over twenty years has been to preserve and restore the historic community of Arthurdale, with remarkable results. The early administration building is now a small museum, and the forge building, Esso service station, and community center building are open to visitors.

Helpful members of Arthurdale Heritage are happy to tell you more about their thriving community, which is being restored to reflect its 1930s origins. The museum tour includes a homestead home returned to its original state. It was furnished by donations of items from people who grew up in Arthurdale and includes furniture that was manufactured there.

Arthurdale is 20 miles south of Morgantown, WV. Each year, on the second Saturday in July, the village celebrates a popular family event, the New Deal Festival, with musical groups, hay rides, an antique car and tractor show, country food, and a visit by Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt re-enactors. Next year's celebration will be on July 14, 2012.

For further information about Arthurdale and next year's New Deal Festival: [www.arthurdaleheritage.org](http://www.arthurdaleheritage.org)



MCCA picture copyright Estate of Bayard Young

***Eleanor Roosevelt receiving a dozen dress shirts for the President, made by the Mountaineer Craftsmen's Cooperative Association in Arthurdale***

\*\*\* The 1994 National Register of Historic Places plaque for Aberdeen Gardens reads:

"Built by Negroes for Negroes, Aberdeen Gardens began in 1934 as the model resettlement community for Negro families. It was the only such community in the United States designed by a Negro architect (Hilyard R. Robinson) and built by Negro contractors and laborers. Aberdeen Gardens is composed of 158 brick houses on large garden lots, a school, and a community store, all within a greenbelt. The streets, excepting Aberdeen Road, are named for prominent Negroes. Aberdeen Gardens offered home ownership and an improved quality of life in a rural setting. In 1994 this nationally significant neighborhood was listed as a Virginia landmark and in the National Register of Historic Places, through the efforts of former and current residents."

***Reaction to Eleanor Roosevelt's public involvement in government social programs led to the issuance of these and other anti-Eleanor buttons.***





*These are not contemporary with Arthur's presidency.*



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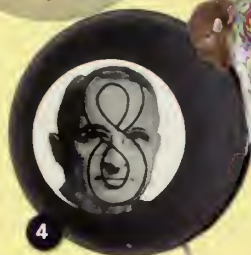
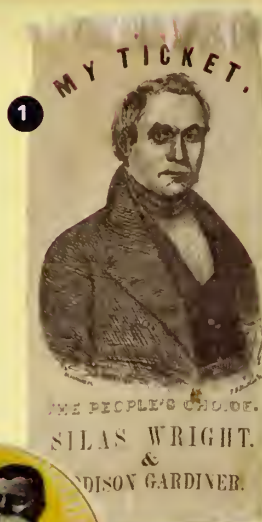


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5. American Porcelain Centennial Vase Union Porcelain Works, Greenpoint, New York, Circa 1876-1885. Designed by Karl Müller Sold \$28,680  
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6. William Henry Harrison: Spectacular Log Cabin Brooch Sold \$10,157  
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7. Franklin D. Roosevelt: Elusive Furriers Pin Sold \$985  
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8. John W. Davis: Highly Desirable Hometown Button Sold \$10,755  
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- Wednesday, Aug. 1 .....Room hopping, Presidents' Reception
- Thursday, Aug. 2 .....Bourse, exhibits, members' auction
- Friday Aug. 3 .....Bourse, Chapter Meetings, Seminars, Presidential forum featuring presidential re-enactors, 1960s Coffee Shop revisited with Bill Cohen of NPR and Gerald Lucas of Kent State University. Special edition of Dixey City Limits will be held at the hotel Friday night.
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